

To members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to add my support to encouraging the governor, in his proposed budget, to increase funding to the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. Many others have testified as to the details regarding the dire situation of early child programs in Connecticut today. To repeat just a few points, many needed programs already have had to close. Many others are on the brink of closure. Funding for programs such as Care-for-Kids and School Readiness do not provide adequate funds to provide quality care and education for the children in the programs, and there are long waiting lists. We need to increase wages for staff to provide living wages. Too many staff have left for better paying jobs, often with benefits.

From the perspective of the state economy, in order to function at an optimal level businesses need workers. Workers need child care. Adequate support for the Office of Early Childhood is essential to improving the workforce needed to promote the economic development of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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